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# Guilty Plea Fails to Curb Missile Data Inquiry, U.S. Aide Says

Special to The New York Times

SAN FRANCISCO, April 17— Joseph Russoniello, United States Attorney for Northern California, said today that an investigation of the theft and sale of missile data was continuing despite a guilty plea Monday by James Durward Harper Jr.

Mr. Russoniello denied press reports that his office had agreed to a negotiated plea because it was impossible to try the case without disclosing classified military information. He noted that the law provided procedures to protect the confidentiality of such data.

The procedures "take us out of the posture where we have to start thinking in terms of compromising national security for the advantage of public trial," he said, adding, "We just don't have to face that choice."

Mr. Harper, an engineer from Mountain View, a suburb of San Francisco, was allowed at a court hearing Monday to plead guilty to one count of conspiracy to deliver military information to aid a foreign government. In a nine-count indictment handed down Dec. 9, he was charged with obtaining and selling missile research data to a Polish intelligence agent.

## Four Others Are Implicated

In a statement read in court, Mr. Harper named four other people he said had been involved with him. One was Ruby Louise Schuler, his second wife, who died last June. Mr. Harper also listed Jack Stouffer as the name of another person meant to share in the proceeds of the sale of the stolen material.

John Philip Stouffer said today in a telephone interview at his home in Santa Clara that he was "befuddled, upset, mad" at being implicated in espionage by Mr. Harper, a friend. "A lot of people knew Harper, and we talk about him a lot," Mr. Stouffer said. "Why he named me is beyond me."

He said Mr. Harper, whom he had known for 20 years, had worked for him as a manufacturer's representative in electronic components at Nor Cal Associates. He also said he last saw Mr. Harper about a week before his arrest last Oct. 15.

Mr. Stouffer, who is 57 years old, said he had been unemployed since leaving Nor Cal three years ago. He also said he had been in touch with the Federal authorities investigating Mr. Harper, and had testified before the grand jury that indicted Mr. Harper.

Two others implicated in Mr. Harper's statement Monday were William Bell Hogle, an electronics entrepreneur, and his wife, Bevalyn Iverson Hogle. Mr. Hogle, who has never been charged in the case and has consistently denied any involvement in espionage, again rebutted Mr. Harper's allegations today through a lawyer, John L. Williams of San Jose.

Mr. Hogle was "very distressed" at having himself and his wife named in court, Mr. Williams said, adding: "It upsets him a great deal. It's just flatly false."

Mr. Williams said Mr. Williams was making a business trip outside the United States.

Neither Mrs. Hogle nor her attorney could be reached for comment.